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NA COMMITTEE FOR THE HUMANITIES WINTER 1995 • VOL. 21 NO. 1

REPORT

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TO THE PEOPLE OF MONTANA

KITTREDGE RECEIVES NEH HONOR

Prestigious Frankel Prize Awarded to Montana Scholar

The National Endowment for the Humanities awarded Professor William Kittredge of the University of Montana, now widely considered the West's leading voice and interpreter, the 1994 Charles Frankel Prize. The NEH selects outstanding scholars each year to receive the award for their achievements in bringing history, literature, philosophy, and other aspects of the humanities to the general public.

Professor Kittredge was a guest at the White House with the other five winners and MCH Chair Jamie Doggett and Executive Director Margaret Kingsland on October 14, 1994.

Professor Kittredge, master of the essay, memoir, short story, and screenwriting forms, is compared to Wallace Stegner for his importance in shaping the new visions of the West.

Some of Kittredge's major books include Owning it All, Hole in the Sky, The Van Gogh Field and Other Stories, and We Are Not In This Together. His stories have appeared in *The Atlantic* and *Harper's*, *Esquire*, and *Rolling Stone*, in addition to peer-reviewed journals.

His screenwriting credits include Heartland and an adaptation of A River Runs Through It by Norman McLean.

His leadership of the editorial board of the Montana Committee for the Humanities-sponsored centennial anthology, The Last Best Place, reshaped the understanding of regional writing and the renaissance in Western writing he helped launch twenty years ago with his own original work. In 1988 he received the Montana Committee for the Humanities' *Award in the Humanities* for his work on The Last Best Place.

Bill Kittredge with President and Mrs. Clinton at the Frankel Award Ceremony at the White House.

The late Charles Frankel was a Columbia University professor of philosophy and an advocate of the role of scholars in public service. He served as the first president of the National Humanities Center in North Carolina. Past Frankel Prize winners include writer Eudora Welty, filmmaker Ken Burns, and philosopher Alan Bloom.

Montana This Morning Receives Federation's Schwartz Award

The Montana Committee for the Humanities' daily TV series *Montana This Morning* has received national recognition in the form of a Helen and Martin Schwartz Award from the Federation of State Humanities Councils for the most outstanding council-conducted project by any state humanities council. The award is the highest award given by the Federation of State Humanities Councils. It was presented to Montana Committee for the Humanities Chair Jamie Doggett (White Sulphur Springs) and Executive Director Margaret Kingsland (Missoula) at the Federation's annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

The Montana Committee for the Humanities launched this award-winning television series on all CBS affiliates across Montana in June, 1993. *Montana This Morning* is a three-minute program on weekday mornings. It focuses on public affairs and cultural topics. The series is the brain-child of UM Professor Bill Chaloupka of the MCH Board and Bill Sullivan, General Manager of KPAX-TV. The producer/host is Glenda Wallace of Missoula. MCH Director Margaret Kingsland is Executive Producer.

This unique partnership between

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Montana Committee for the Humanities

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Valerie Gager
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TV Producer/Host

MCH ELECTS NEW BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

The Montana Committee for the Humanities elected four new members to its governing board at the Committee's December 2-3, 1994, meeting in Billings.

Tom Elliott of Grass Range, **Stephen Fenter** of Billings, **Valerie Gager** of Helena and **Janet McMillan** of Lame Deer began four-year terms January 1.

The Committee also re-elected **Jamie Doggett** of White Sulphur Springs as chair, and elected **Greg Hirst** of Wolf Point vice chair.

Mr. Elliott, a published poet, short story writer and author of various public radio commentaries, is one of three public members elected to the Committee. He is part-owner and general manager of the N-Bar Ranch in Grass Range, a 48,000-acre diversified farming and ranching operation. He is also president of Elliott Management Co., and has worked in all phases of oil and gas exploration and production. Elliott earned a master's degree of business administration from Duke University in 1976.

Mr. Fenter, also a public member of the Committee, is vice president and manager of investments at First Trust Company of Montana in Billings. He serves on the boards of directors of Parmly Billings Library, the Boys Club of Billings, and Planned Parenthood of Billings, and he has served as chairman of the Montana Welfare Study Task Force. Fenter earned a bachelor's degree in history and political science from UM in 1964.

Dr. Gager, director of the Honors Scholars Program at Carroll College in Helena, is an academic Committee member. Gager recently earned a doctorate from the Shakespeare Institute of the University of Birmingham, England, and has taught at Marlboro College in Vermont. She chairs the Community Service Council for the Montana Campus Compact, and is a symphony review columnist for the Helena *Independent Record*. Gager worked in the marketing department of TIME Inc. in Wisconsin before moving to Montana.

Ms. McMillan, a public member of the Committee, is the juvenile judge for the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Court. A graduate of UM's Law School, she served as a legal intern for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribal prosecutor's office. She also has volunteered for Literacy Volunteers of America and owned her own business.

Elected to a third term as Committee chair, Ms. Doggett is a rancher and vice chair of the Montana Federation of Republican Women. She and her husband ranch in Meagher County.

Mr. Hirst, the Committee's vice chair, is an enrolled member of the Blackfeet tribe. He has taught at Blackfeet Community College and Fort Peck Community College.

Members whose terms are expiring are **Tim Bernardis** of Crow Agency, **Judy Browning** of Helena, **William Chaloupka** of Missoula and **David Karnos** of Billings.

New Media Grant Guidelines

The Montana Committee for the Humanities has revised its media grants with new guidelines, procedures, and deadlines for filmmakers and producers of video projects.

Initial requests for project funding are due in the MCH office by Monday **March 20**. Each request should be in the form of 25 copies of a letter of intent, about five pages long, and should include a description of the grant project, a budget estimate, distribution plans, and a short film or video treatment. Projects will be judged on their humanities content, with special attention given to topics that contribute to the public enlightenment on complex issues.

MCH will review the requests in April, and up to eight applications will be invited to submit full proposals, due October 20. In November, the Committee will announce up to four grants of up to $8,000 each.

For a complete set of guidelines, please contact the MCH office at (406) 243-6022.

Grant Information

- MCH has created a new grant category to assist scholars working on research projects. The *Research Fellowship* program will provide up to 3 fellowships of up to $4,000 each. Deadline for application is December 20, 1995.
- MCH has exhausted all grant funds for fiscal year 1995 (Nov. 1, 1994 to Nov. 1, 1995). The Committee will be re-granting funds reverted from completed projects as they become available. Please contact the MCH office (406) 243-6002 with funding questions.

NEH up for Congressional Reauthorization

Executive Director's Note: Federal regulations prohibit MCH from using this newsletter to advocate political action. The following report is meant only to educate readers about the current Congressional actions that may affect MCH.

As we go to press with this newsletter, the 104th Congress is considering measures that will abolish the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) or significantly reduce its budget. The NEH provides the MCH with over 90% of its support. Cuts to the NEH could result in the elimination of MCH.

THREE HURDLES

NEH and the two other agencies authorized with NEH in a single piece of legislation, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the Institute for Museum Service (IMS), face at least three major hurdles in the 104th Congress in the coming weeks and months:

RECISION

Some Congressional members have called for deep cuts in the current 1995 budget, the budget the previous Congress adopted. Theoretically, the 104th Congress could rescind all unspent dollars the 103rd Congress appropriated. Representative Ralph Regula, Republican of Ohio and chair of the interior subcommittee with appropriations responsibility for NEH, began hearings related to recision during the last week of January. At the time of this writing, the subcommittee has recommended a $5,000,000 cut in NEH's 1995 appropriation.

REAUTHORIZATION

Congress must pass authorizing legislation every five years for federal agencies, such as NEH, NEA, and IMS, to continue to exist. This legislation is separate from appropriation bills, which determine the funding levels for agencies. The authorizing legislation for NEH, NEA, and IMS expired three years ago. The agencies have been operating without Congressional authorization since October 1993, when the House of Representatives passed reauthorization legislation but the parallel legislation never reached the Senate floor. The agencies have continued with implicit authorization through annual appropriations.

Reauthorization hearings began in the Senate at the end of January. Early reports indicate that "everything is on the table" and that the Senate is considering major changes in the authorizing legislation. Congressman Pat Williams of Montana sits on the House subcommittee considering reauthorization.

APPROPRIATIONS

If the Congress does not "zero out" the NEH in recision hearings and it reauthorizes the agency for another five years, the next Congressional hurdle the NEH faces is the appropriations process. This process determines the amount of funding NEH receives. NEH's current budget is $177 million, about 7 cents per U.S. citizen. Congressional opponents are expected to demand deep cuts in the NEH budget. Appropriations hearings for 1996 budget will begin later in the spring.

PAST SUPPORT

In the past, NEH and its programs and affiliates–including the state humanities councils, brittle book and historical artifacts preservation programs, documentary films such as Ken Burns' *Civil War*, and research grants to humanities scholars–have received broad bipartisan support in Congress. NEH's National Council on the Humanities incudes both Republican and Democrat appointees. Every U.S. president from Richard Nixon to Bill Clinton has spoken in favor of maintaining NEH. Fourteen years ago a commission appointed by President Reagan to consider elimination of both NEH and NEA concluded that "the strength of America's arts and humanities is essential to the well-being of nation" and that "our federal government bears a responsibility for encouraging and protecting the arts and humanities."

THE CHALLENGE

The current challenge to the NEH comes from a combination of hostility toward the NEH, NEA, and IMS and commitment to massive budget reductions in the federal discretionary budget.

The *Contract with America* calls for a $531 million reduction in funding for the arts and humanities over the next five years. This translates into a 30% cut in the NEH's annual budget in each of the next five years.

High profile critics of the agency have taken the opportunity of the budget-cutting debate to question the NEH's role in cultural life. Conservative columnists Charles Krauthhammer and George Will have argued for dismantling the NEH. House Speaker Gingrich, in a January 3 interview on C-Span, said NEH was "proposing changes that are destructive of American civilization" and promised to try to zero out its appropriations. William Bennett and Lynne Cheney, former NEH chairmen and Republican leaders, have joined the conservative condemnation of NEH. They testified before Congress that the agency they once administered should be eliminated.

FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION

Ultimately, what is at issue is one of the fundamental questions of our republic–what is the proper role of government?

Should the federal government play a role in sustaining the cultural life of the nation? Should the NEH, and by inference the MCH, be the federal government's cultural agency? We hope Montanans with opinions about these question will write their congressional delegates.

Special thanks to the California and Texas humanities councils for permission to adapt this article from their newsletters.

From Page 1

MCH and a commercial television network was a first for any humanities council.

Each weekday morning, at 7:15 AM, as the local cutaway during *CBS THIS MORNING*, Montanans can catch a three-minute segment of a week-long interview with the likes of writers **Bill Kittredge**, **Mary Clearman Blew**, **James Welch**, or **Rick Bass**; or you can tune in to a question-and-answer discussion with political leaders like **Senators Baucus** and **Burns**, **Representative Williams**, **State Legislator Angela Russell**, or **Governor Racicot**. Other guests have included Arlee artist **Dana Boussard**, educator and writer **Bill Bevis**, ethicist **Deni Elliot**, Hospice leader **Ira Byock**, economist **Stanley Nicholson**, MSU President and historian **Mike Malone**, and noted Western historian **Patricia Nelson Limerick**.

ASARCO Corporation underwrites a portion of the program costs and has enabled MCH to continue broadcasting *Montana This Morning* through March of 1995.

John and Susan Opitz
Leigh Opitz

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The NEH in Montana

by Margaret Kingsland, Executive Director of the Montana Committee for the Humanities

The MCH is not the only beneficiary of grants from the National Endowment for the Humanties in our state. In the past five years a total of $4,374,763 has been awarded in NEH grant funds for Montana programs.

In addition to grants of outright and matching funds averaging roughly $450,000 per year to the MCH, the NEH has supported fellowships for *college and university scholars in the humanities, and for Montana school teachers*. More than $150,00 for such fellowships have been received by Montanans.

The University of Montana's Mansfield Center has just received a prestigious *NEH Summer Institute* grant for 1995. Montana State University and the University of Montana have each received major *NEH Challenge Grants* to support funding for MSU's Stegner Chair in Western Studies, a chair in Native American literature, and other humanities activities. The UM's Center for the Rocky Mountain West is the beneficiary of a $520,00 challenge grant.

St. Patrick Hospital's Institute for Medicine and the Humanities in Missoula has received two major grants for *public reading/discussion programs* in Western Montana. In Billings the Western Heritage Center has received more than $300,000 for its major *exhibit and outreach programs* benefitting Central and Eastern Montana. *State-wide radio programming* on Montana literature, hosted by Big Sky Radio, has received more than $300,000 in NEH support.

These NEH programs in Montana are **in addition** to the many programs funded across the state by the MCH, with NEH support. In addition, Montana's Cultural Trust helps to support our *Speakers Bureau* with state coal tax funds. Your private donations to MCH are also greatly appreciated, and are needed now more than ever.

All in all, the general public and the museum, library, and academic communities in Montana have benefitted greatly from recent federal support from the National Endowment for Humanities.

Montanans who wish to comment on the NEH should not hesitate to contact Senators Baucus and Burns and Congressman Williams. The time is now.

In Memorium

The Montana Committee for the Humanities and friends were saddened to learn of the death this winter of one of the MCH's five founders, Roy Huffman of Bozeman. Dr. Huffman was Vice President of Research at Montana State University when he joined then-UM President Robert Pantzer, Pierce Mullen of MSU, John Van de Wetering of the UM, and Joe Ward of Carroll College in organizing the state's humanities council in 1971. He was an enthusiastic and loyal supporter of its work for the remainder of his life, and will be sorely missed by all whose lives he touched.

GRANTS AWARDED

September 1994-February 1995

• **Doctors and the Decision to Die**, Institute for Medicine and the Humanities, Missoula, $3,500.
• **Feisty Women/Jolies Femmes**, Department of History at the University of Montana, Missoula, $2,734.
• **Shakespeare in the Schools, 1994**, Montana Shakespeare in the Parks (MSU), Bozeman, $6,500.
• **Ethical Issues in Contemporary Africa--The role of Senegalese and Pan-African Film. Films and Lecture by Ousmane Sembène, Senegalese Novelist and Film Director**, Foreign Languages and Women's Studies Departments, The University of Montana, Missoula, $2,947.
• **The Pride of Butte, A Course on Butte History**, Butte Silver Bow Arts Foundation, Butte, $1980.
• **Death and Dying: The Spiritual Nature of an End of Life Decision, an Ecumenical Forum**, Plymouth Congregational Church, Helena, $500.
• **The 1995 Writers and Readers Celebrate St. Patrick's Day in Butte**, Writers and Readers Celebrate Advisory Committee, Butte, $2,981.
• **Ihanktowan Wounspe Iapi (Learning the Sioux Language)**, Native American Studies Program at Fort Peck Community College, Poplar, $8,106.
• **The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Native Children's Games**, The People's Center, Pablo, $13,132.
• **Project Piikanii**, Blackfeet Community College, Browning, $4,820.
• **Crow Hymns Project**, Crow Indian Baptist Association, Billings, $5,600.
• **Quay-Lem U En-Chow-Men: Preservation of Salish Hymns and Prayers**, Salish Kootenai College Media Center, Pablo, $5,114.
• **Preserving Crow Tribal Language and Traditions in Song, Story, and Dance**, Pretty Eagle Catholic School, St. Xavier, $1,750.
• **Discovering Lewis and Clark**, VIAs Inc., Lolo, $2,911.

GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINES

Type of Grant Application	Amount Requested	Application Deadline	Projects Beginning
Immediate Action	$500 or less	2 weeks prior to need	2 weeks after application
Regular Grants	$3,000 or less	20th of each month except for the first two weeks of the year.	10 weeks after application due date
Regular Grants	Over $3,000	March 20, 1995	May 29, 1995
		August 20, 1995	October 29, 1995
		November 20, 1995	January 29, 1995
Humanities Focus	$3,000 or less	November 1, 1995	December 10, 1995
Humanities Focus	$3,000 or less	December 20, 1995	February 10, 1996
Media Grant Letter of Inquiry (Required)	$5,000 or less	March 20, 1995	December 1995

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